

CALL FOR PRE-DOCTORAL STUDENT IN THE FIELD OF BIOLOGY, BIOTECHNOLOGY OR RELATED HEALTH SCIENCES AT THE HUMAN NUTRITION UNIT OF ROVIRA I VIRGILI UNIVERSITY (URV)-IISPV

The Human Nutrition Unit (HNU, www.nutricio.urv.cat/), from the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, at the Rovira i Virgili University (URV, Reus, Tarragona), and the Institute of Health Pere Virgili (IISPV) are currently looking for a **pre-doctoral student** who applies for a University grant in the field of Nutrition Biology.

The HNU is an interdisciplinary community lead by Prof. Jordi Salas-Salvadó that works mainly on Nutrition and the prevention of cardiometabolic and aging-related diseases. Our team has hosted many randomized clinical trials in the context of the beneficial effect of specific food groups (e.g., nuts) and is one of the centers where PREDIMED (*Prevención con Dieta Mediterránea*) took place. Importantly, the HNU is the current coordinator center of the PREDIMED-Plus trial (www.predimedplus.com/). We have also explored the effects of the Mediterranean diet on male fertility, and the beneficial effects of certain foods/patterns in aging processes and their derangements. Therefore, we have focused on gene expression, DNA methylation and telomere length, in *in vivo* and/or *in vitro* specimens.

Currently, we are conducting the [LED-Fertyl study](#), which is a cross-sectional and multicenter study. The main objective of this project is to identify and quantify the dietary determinants and other lifestyle factors that are associated with semen quality by analyzing their implication on body weight, insulin resistance, oxidation / inflammation, the consequences at the DNA level and cellular aging contributing to the risk of male infertility. Moreover, we are tightly collaborating with Harvard University and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) in the analysis of a big prospective preconception cohort called [EARTH](#), which is aimed to identify environmental and nutritional determinants of fertility, in a couples perspective (men and women).

The post is within the research cluster Nutrition and aging related diseases, located at Medicine and Health science Campus in Reus.

In order to complete our team, our research group is seeking a **highly motivated candidate to start his/her PhD**.

Considering the current worldwide status; the candidate will be incorporated into one of our ongoing or pending projects. Their tasks will be those related with the laboratory work but also, he/she will participate in the recruitment and follow-up of the subjects in prospective cohort studies and exploring the associations between the exposome and fertility.

Your responsibilities

The successful candidate will develop independent research leading to a PhD in the field of Nutrition and aging related diseases.

What the position offers you

We offer a stimulating and diverse work environment, with dedicated support for developing an academic career. Members of our research group become part of international networks and benefit from opportunities to attend conferences and workshops around the world.

Qualifications

The successful candidate is expected:

- To have a Degree in **Biomedicine, Biotechnology, Biology, or other biomedical science-related degrees** with a final mark above 8.3 (**indispensable**).

- Degree grades scaled according to the Spanish scale:
<https://www.educacionyfp.gob.es/servicios-al-ciudadano/catalogo/gestion-titulos/estudios-universitarios/titulos-extranjeros/equivalencia-notas-medias.html>
- To be either accepted in a Doctorate Program (within the URV) or have earned a Master's Degree.
- To demonstrate an interest in Nutrition or another field relevant to the post self-motivation, independence and flexible working attitude and an ability to motivate workmates will be positively evaluated.
- To demonstrate skills of a team player in a multi-lingual, multi-disciplinary setting demonstrate autonomy and initiative.

The following are considered assets, but not requirements:

- Publications, posters, congress attendance and other merits
- Previous experience in nutritional Biology, Biotechnology and/or laboratory experience
- Basic knowledge/experience in nutritional epidemiology (use of R and STATA softwares)Have fieldwork experience
- Experience in writing scientific reports and publications in English (English B2 or higher level)

Your application

Applicants must send a cover letter, a curriculum vitae (CVA and CVN) and a copy of the degree qualifications to nutriciohumana@urv.cat **before September 30th, 2023**. Each attached document must be named with the candidate's name, surname, and Subject: **"PREDOC NUT"**